# Washington Sentinel.

WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH, AND BEVERLEY TUCKER

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

## FEBRUARY 17, 1854.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, yesterday, several bills of no great public import were passed. Mr. Badger then addressed the Senate for two hours in support of the bill. Mr. Seward has the floor

In the House of Representatives Mr. Breckinridge reported a bill making appropriations | perty." for the completion of certain custom-houses and marine hospitals, and it was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the

### SENATOR BRIGHT.

The absence of Governor Bright from his seat in the Senate for the last few days is owing to severe indisposition. We deeply regret to learn that he is suffering from an aggravated attack of inflammatory rheumatism, to which he is subject. We regret his sickness on his own account, for a purer and a nobler man does not live. We also regret it on account of the temporary loss to the Senate of one whose counsels are always able, enlightened, independent, and honest. We sincerely hope that his health may soon be restored.

### WARLIKE INTELLIGENCE FROM EUROPE.

By a despatch which appears in our telegra phic column, it will be seen that the steamer Canada has arrived at Halifax, bringing later intelligence from Europe, which indicates that that quarter of the globe is at length beyond doubt to be the theatre of a formidable struggle among the great powers growing out of the Russo-Turkish difficulties.

### SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF CO-LUMBIA-JOHN VAN BUREN.

In our comments yesterday on Mr. John Van Buren's letter to Colonel Clemens, of Alabama, we omitted to notice a statement made in the postscript to that remarkable epistle, which is calculated to mislead and deceive the public. That statement is to the effect, that the interpretation of the prinicple of non-intervention given in the Nebraska bill, would require the repeal of all the laws of Congress establishing slavery; and, inasmuch as slavery exists in the District of Columbia by the laws of Congress alone, the Maryland and Virginia laws upholding it having been repealed, non-intervention would require that slavery be abolished in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Van Buren is utterly and entirely mistaken in his facts. Slavery was not established in the District of Columbia by congressional enactment. It existed and was recognised and protected in the original ten miles square by the laws of Maryland and Virginia, which were enacted before the formation of the government. When the federal government took possession, it adopted the laws of Maryland Potomac, and the laws of Virginia for that portion south of the Potomac. Slavery was a pre-existing thing, fixed and established before the government was fixed and established.

The laws of Virginia and Maryland recognising and protecting slavery have never been repealed. That portion of the original District of Columbia which lies south of the Potomac was ceded by Virginia. It has been retroceded to that State, so that the present District embraces only that portion of the original District which was granted by the State of Maryland. But before the retrocession to Virginia two distinct laws were in force with regard to the introduction of slaves into the District. Maryland had before the cession prohibited the introduction of slaves for sale. Vir ginia had made no such prohibition. It followed, then, that slaves could be carried for sale into that portion of the District which was ceded by Virginia, but could not be carried into that portion ceded by Maryland. But at an early day Congress repealed the prohibition of the old Maryland law, and permitted the slave trade in the northern part as well as in the southern part of the District, and the trade was carried on until the act of repeal was in turn repealed by one of the compromise measures

There are other old Maryland laws still in force; for instance, the law which permits a person coming into the District of Columbia to reside, to bring his or her slaves within the year. That law, like all the old Maryland laws touching slavery, is still in force in the city and county of Washington. None of them have ever been repealed. The congressional enactment passed about the year 1802, permitting slaves to be brought here for sale, was practically an abrogation of the Maryland law in that respect; and that was the only instance we know of in which the Maryland law was interfered with by Congress. Municipal police laws have been adopted, and rules and regulations have been prescribed, for the purpose of registering slaves introduced into the Distriet, and for excluding free negroes, unless they could give security for their good behaviour; but further than that legislation bas not sone, save and except the repeal of that rewarding freesoilers might dodge. We wish act of Congress which repealed the Maryland them first to commit themselves beyond the law prohibiting the slave trade.

Mr. Van Buren had better examine the subject of slavery before he undertakes to write on it again. His fanatical appeals may be taken as gospel trnths by his faithful followers: but when he ventures before a different audience with a legal argument, it would not be amiss for him to consult his books, no public men, and therefore more to be commatter how thoroughly he is hardened against the shame of detection and exposure. And the shame of detection and exposure. And excusable, a laudable ambition—that sort of although advice from us would be lost upon ambition, without which patriotism would be him, we would nevertheless intimate to him that, when he makes another attempt to caiole an eminent statesman whom he has wronged, it would be well to show some signs of contrition, as well as of cunning. But Mr. John Van Buren undertook to gnaw a file to the infary of his own teeth. That is all, and that is enough. Let him go.

Senator Chase, in his speech, says of the Contitution: "That charter of government was not formed upon pro-slavery principles, but upon anti-slavery principles. It nowhere recognises any right of property in man. It nowhere confers upon the government which it creates any power to establish or to continue slavery. And, to fortify his position, he quotes the language of Mr. Justice McLean: "That cannot divest them of the leading and controlling quality of persons, by which they are designated in the Constitution. The character of property is given them by the local law. This law is re spected, and all rights under it are protected by the federal authorities. But the Constitution acts upon slaves as persons and not as pro-

If the honorable senator offers the best argu ments his side of the question affords, the decision will be an easy one, for he answers Union. The homestead bill was taken up. Mr. himself. He summons Mr. Madison as evi-Boyce delivered his views on the subject of dence. We quote the senator: "Mr. Madisor the tariff, and Mr. Sapp advocated the pending himself records, in his report of the debates of the convention, his own declaration, that it was 'wrong to admit in the Constitution the idea that there could be property in men.' Can anything be more conclusive that it had been admitted, than this declaration that they did wrong in having admitted it? It is perfectly certain, if it had not been admitted, Mr. Madison could not have used the language quoted, and it is susceptible of no

other interpretation." The quotation made from Mr. Justice Mc Lean is not less conclusively against the senator. The learned judge says the Constitution "designates slaves as persons." He says "this law"-the local law which makes persons property-"is respected, and all rights under it are protected by the federal authorities." The senator's interpretation of "respecting and protecting by the federal authorities" is, the moment they get this property under their exclusive jurisdiction, to rob the owners, whose rights they are respecting and protecting. The Constitution recognises "persons held to service." If a slave be not a "person held to service." will the senator indicate who is?

If the senator will offer the following amend ment to the Nebraska bill, we promise him : more miraculous conversion than is like to en sue from the whole of his speech. The amend ment may read somewhat thus:

"And it is hereby further expressly provided that all citizens migrating to any of the Terri-tories of the United States shall be protected in the secure and peaceful enjoyment of the labor of persons held to service."

We doubt not, if the honorable senator wil bring up the question before the learned judge on a similar plea, that he will decide precisel as he has here done, and in a manner equally conclusive in regard to a horse, and will say "That cannot divest them of the leading and controlling quality of animals, by which they are designated in the Constitution. The character of property is given them by the lo cal law. This law is respected, and all rights under it are protected by the federal authorities. But the Constitution acts upon horses as animals, and not as property."

We will do for the senator that which he has not done for himself, we will give the whole

opinion, as it will be delivered: "The plaintiffs in error, in this case, being pack-horses, dray-horses, race-horses, coach-horses, riding-horses, and wild horses, claim their freedom under the Constitution, in the Territory of the United States, because the Constitution acts upon horses as animals, and not as property. The court, however, after a careful examination of authorities, and upon full consultation, have come to an almos unanimous opinion that a dray-horse, coach horse, et al., come fairly within the scope of that article in the Constitution which treats of animals held to service.' The court hold that the Constitution may term a dray-horse an animal held to service,' and leave him still a horse. The decision of the court below is therefore affirmed with costs.'

## THE SOUTHERN WHIGS AND THE

NEBRASKA BILL.

A few days since we copied an article from leading southern whig paper, the Richmond Whig, in which it announced its approval of the Nebraska bill, and announced it in the most emphatic language. We transfer to our paper of this morning another article on the same subject from the same journal. We are pleased to learn from that article that in its patriotic effort to establish on a firm basis the sound constitutional doctrine of congressional nonintervention it counts on the sympathy and co operation of the southern whigs generally. We have not doubted from the first that such would be the case. The Richmond Whig magnanimously confesses its mistake in imputing to Judge Douglas improper motives in his introduction of the Nebraska bill into the Senate-We copy the whole article:

"The Washington Sentinel, in giving our views of the Nebraska bill, would seem to have been in some doubt with respect to our opin-ions on the subject. It is a little strange that we, who have never had the slightest connexion with freesoilers at home or abroad, and never given to them or to their doctrines the least countenance, should come under suspicion in any quarter. We suppose it is owing to the fact that, while we have always upheld the just rights of the south, we have not been particu-larly noisy about it, and have not at all times had faith in the self-constituted champions of the south, who professed themselves better friends to the slaveholder than the slaveholder was to himself. As to the bill under consideration. we never had any hesitation with respect to its leading features, and we suppose there is not a whig in all the south who had. Our only apprehension was that a direct issue might not be made, or, if there was, that the administration and the southern advocates of its policy of

power of retreat. "In a paragraph, a few days ago, we ex-pressed or implied a doubt touching the mo-tives which may have actuated Mr. Douglas in this matter. We are persuaded we did that gentleman injustice, and we wish frankly to repair it. We are satisfied he has by his conduct on this occasion exhibited a disinterested fearlessness, more and more rare every day in mended. Some latent ambition may have ex erted an influence upon him; but it was an come extinct, and great and noble deeds would cease to be achieved. If he hoped to win the Presidency, he at the same time must have been conscious of the risk he ran of compromitting himself at home, and sacrificing all his future prospects. He was the only man of his party or his section who had the nerve, the his party or his section who had the nerve, the manliness, the Curtian spirit, to brave the crisis. fashioned, with truthful coloring, the image of

THE NEBRASKA BILL AND SENATOR alted worth and brilliant acquirements, through want of moral courage, dread of Harvard col-lege and Faneuil Hall, the bugbears or stum-bling-blocks of all the later great men of Mas-sachusetts, shrunk from the destiny which for-tune pressed upon him. Nothing was wanting to round off and perfect the character of Mr. Everett, to make him perhaps the foremost man of the times, but the evidence that he ossessed moral courage—that he was not afraid to assert the just and the right against all odds, and without regard to consequences But, punied by the shadow of Cambridge Uni versity, he was not equal to the occasion. Mr. Douglas, with possibly not half his substantial worth, certainly with not a tithe of his varied accomplishments, has fairly won the palm, and leserves to wear it.'

> We have received the following letter from member of the party under the command o Andrew B. Gray, esq., sent out by the Missis-sippi and Pacific Railroad Company to make an examination of the southern route. Our correspondent, who is a gentleman of intelligence and skill, promises to continue his com nunications more in detail; and it will afford us much pleasure to receive them and lay them before our readers:

To the Editors of the Sentinel.

FORT CHADBOURNE, TEXAS, January 14, 1854. GENTLEMEN: The expedition set on foot b northern capitalists for the exploration of outhern railroad route to the Pacific has nowad vanced to this extreme western Texan militar station. I write now to inform you of some of the details of our progress, as in all probability I shall not be able to forward another communication until we reach El Paso. You are of course aware that the exploration is in charge of Colonel Gray, whose name has been so long and favorably associated with governmental sur veys and scientific reconnoissances, and whose difference with Commissioner Bartlett, in the ate boundary survey, has given him peculiar prominence before the public. Before his de parture from New York, the colonel had resolved to make San Antonio his starting-point. A flying visit from San Antonio to Austin enbled him to obtain an interview with General Rusk, senator from Texas, as also to witness the passage of the very favorable bill by the egislature, in furtherance of the railroad through his State. A few days after his return, most excellent exertions, all things were in readiness for departure. Colonel Gray has proved himself a competent judge of his race, rom the discretion he has shown in the selection of his men. His immediate scientific assistant is a gentleman of more than ordinary

acquirements. There are but few reconnoissances for the pas ew years, in the southwest, in which Mr. De Lacey has not assumed a prominent position The remainder of the expedition are in all respects well qualified for the arduous duty for which they have been retained. Many of them are well versed in wood and prairie craft, and all seem intelligent, temperate, and courageous. The entire corps, embracing Colonel Gray's servant, number nineteen men; among whom is a German artist, whose drawings b tray thoughtful skill. During the route so far tew changes and purchases of animals have een made. At present, embracing mules and horses, we have thirty-one. Although the encampment in the neighborhood of San Anto nio was moved a mile or two on the evening pre eeding the 1st of January, the movement of th expedition really dates at the commencement the year. The mules had never yet known the burden of a pack-saddle, and it was necessary to reduce them to some degree of subjecion before launching them forth upon their ong journey. The travel already accomplished has nothing particular to distinguish it from ordinary trips made through Texan territory save the scientific observations accompanying it. In striking for the latitude of 32°, we have

pursued the usual route to our present locality, taking Fredericksburg and Fort Mason in our north by 20° west. The site of Fort Chadbourne does not vary materially from the latiude sought.

To one, however, who is not familiar with the peculiarities of Texan scenery, I would in all sincerity commend a pleasure trip to this wild and distant region. We have traversed the level prairie streching around us as far as the eye can reach, with its cloak of withered grass unrelieved by a single tree and scarcely shrub. Again we cross the undulating or rolling prairie, as they are called, with their growth of bare post-oak and mosquit trees, and pecan, and occasional live-oaks, luxuriant in their perennial verdure. Sometimes we clam-ber high hills that may well be termed mountains in Texas. As yet, we have encounter no difficulty in securing abundance of wrter. Rivers, and creeks, and springs, and water holes abound throughout the entire distance The severe cold of the season, has, to great extent, driven the game from the open country into the glades and bottoms, and yet have we met sufficient of every description to rejoice the heart of the hunter. Numerous herds of deer and antelope have met us on the route; and in any of the mountain gorges that we have strolled by can be found abundance of bears. In the neighborhood of the water-courses, upon the trees or beneath them, there is no lack of wild turkeys; and floating upon the streams are seen wild ducks and geese. It is certainly a pleasant trip when the grass is green and the foliage is shrouding the trees, and the company sufficiently large to avoid the eccentricitie of straggling red men.

There is scarce a necessity for any description of San Antonio, with its ancient memories and its seven thousand inhabitants of most motley character. San Antonio has long been the rendezvous of companies starting on a north-ward or western Texan tour, and of course is well known. Fredericksburg, located some 72 miles north, 18° west from San Antonio, is a pleasant German town, embracing about 700 souls. The soil around it is of the most excellent description, and the population orderly and in dustrious. A few miles to the south of Fredericksburg we encountered a deserted post, known as Fort Martin Scott. Under the late orders of General Smith, the garrison had removed to the west on the Rio Grande. The elevation of Fredericksburg is in the neighborhood of 900 feet above the level of the sea, being some 300 feet in altitude above Sar Antonio. It would be difficult to detect any where a lovelier spot than the site of Fort Mi son. Imagine a plain of several miles in extent, engirted by a range of hills of uniform size. In the heart of this plain, by gentle acclivity, springs up a high mound overlooking the surrounding country. In the distance is seen the high peak called House mountain and by the aid of the telescope the far-famed Enchanted rock. On this mound, from ston materials, are erected the beautiful post build ings. Colonel May treated our company with extreme kindness and hospitality. This post, too, under the late orders, is soon to

Forty miles to the south of Fort Chadbourn at our encampment, on the night of the 12th, was a scene well calculated to arrest the eye of the traveller. A precipitous bluff suddenly rises from the river San Saba to the height of some sixty feet, commanding on its summit very extensive and beautiful view of the sur rounding country; but its marked peculiariti are the paintings and hieroglyphics inscribed upon the uppermost rocks which in strata com-pose this singular elevation. In varied colors are portrayed signs and symbols which consti-His conduct forms an enviable contrast to that a Mexican cathedral, while another has imaged of our great man, Mr. Everett, who, with ex- a steamboat; but most of their efforts are con-

fined to their mystic hieroglyphics. I have hinted to their mystic hierogryphics. I have hinted above at the cold weather that now seems to be in the ascendant. After an unusual warm season, it seems our lot to experience a succession of rude northers. The oldest Texan cannot recount an instance in his predegrees below freezing point. Such was the temperature at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 6th, with the wind blowing a gale directly

in our faces.

I have thus given a few incidents connecte with our exploring expedition. I could enlarge into a thousand details, but I fear to weary. It is a comical thing to witness a stampede of wild mules. Without any provocation, an apparently placid old fellow will cock up his meagre tail and dart forth into the prairie. Away scatters the various matters that constitute a pack, and faster and faster plunges Genom Macho. Others are afflicted with the same de sire for diversion. It costs much hard riding and other grievous exertion besides, and I am sorre to say, extreme profamity, to reduce the mulish tribe to sweet subjection. I might enlarge, too, on the peculiarities of the excellent but motley crowd that compose our party. We have with us some true old Texan rangers, and some truly raw ones; but all can properly come under the designation of good fellows. A few Camanches are now trading about the

post of Fort Chadbourne. They confirm the report of the death of the old chieftain Yellow Wolf. A general war has been proclaimed between the Lipans and Camanches; originating in a horse theft on the part of the Camanches We start to-morrow on our journey. Ar. ob ervation just taken proves Fort Chadbourn bout one mile south of the parallel of 32°.

We publish the following communication ion from a gentleman of very high standing. I relates to a subject in reference to which we are profoundly ignorant.

To the Editors of the Sentinel: GENTLEMEN: Mr. Dawson is reported to have stated in the Senate that Mr. Rantoul's estate

received \$300,000 from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, which, he supposed, was for services rendered to the company in procuring the grant of land from the United States.
In the first place, Mr. Rantoul's estate did not receive one cent from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, nor did Mr. Rantoul him-

elf receive one cent from the company.

In the second place, none of the corporators and anything to do with getting the grant from Congress. The grant was made to the State of Illinois.

After the grant was made, the present mans ers of the Illinois Central offered to undertake build the road if the State would give them such a charter as the corporators thought was safe, and would also deed the lands which they

received from the general government to aid if ailding the road. The proposition was accepted. Mr. Rantoul

porators. The sale of this stock has produced all tha ither he or his estate has or will receive from the company. The amount received cannot approach the sum named by Mr. Dawson. The present value of the stock is twenty dollars per share. The whole number of shares, constituting the ultimate capital, is 170,000, which, at \$20 each, would give \$3,400,000 for

the whole project.

The iron purchased by the company at \$40 per ton is worth a profit of \$2,000,000, which hould be deducted from the \$3,400,000, to show the present value of the bargain with the State. Any person can buy an interest in the stock at the value of \$3,400,000.

The large holders expect, of course, that, by heir skill and exertions, the stock will eventually be made worth one hundred dollars per share. Those who can now buy at twenty dollars per share, should not complain of this result, since they now (when the work is nearly done and all the risk has passed) have an opportunity to take an interest on such favorable son may have an opportunity to do justice to the memory of a deceased brother senator: and also to correct a false impression as to the manner in which the grant of land came into A CORPORATOR.

## THE BALTIMORE TIMES.

The Baltimore Times has been changed from morning into an evening paper. Mr. C. G. Baylor has become sole editor and proprietor. The Times is not only an agreeable and nteresting journal, but it is characterized by an sual degree of enterprise. Mr. Baylor spares no effort and no expense to make it worthy of the patronage of the public.

## Supreme Court of the United States. THURSDAY, February 16, 1854.

Isaac A. Verplanck, esq., of New York, was admitted an attorney and counsellor of this ourt. No. 113. Erastus Corning et al. vs. The

Troy Iron and Nail Factory. Appeal from the circuit of the United States for the northern istrict of New York. Mr. Justice Grier de ivered the opinion of this court, dismissing this No. 46. Thomas Kearney et al. vs. John J.

Taylor et al. Appeal from the circuit court of the United States for the district of New Jersey. Mr. Justice Nelson delivered the opinion of this court, affirming the decree of the said circuit No. 45. Wm. Livingston et al. vs. Wm. W

Woodworth, administrator et al. Appeal from the circuit court of the United States for the district of Massachusetts. Mr. Justice Daniel delivered the opinion of this court, reversing the decree of the said circuit court in this cause with costs, and remanding the case for further proceedings, in conformity to the opinion No. 55. Hamilton Murray, use &c., vs. John

A. Gibson. On a certificate of division in opinion between the judges of the circuit court of the United States for the southern district of Mississippi. Mr. Justice Daniel delivered the f this court, that the plea pleaded by he defendant is not a good or sufficient bar to the plaintiff's action, and that the demurrer of he plaintiff should be sustained.

No. 54. Andrew Wylie, jr., administrator of samuel Baldwin, vs. Richard S. Coxe. Appeal from the circuit court of the United States for he District of Columbia. Mr. Justice McLean elivered the opinion of this court, affirming he decree of the said circuit court in this cause, with costs and interest.

No. 56. John Dew, ex dem., Archibald Rus sell, vs. The Association of the Jersey Com-pany. Error to the circuit court of the United tates for the district of New Jersey. Mr. Chief Justice Taney delivered the opinion of this court, affirming the judgment of the said circuit court in this cause, with costs.

No. 64. John C. Yerger, appellant, vs. Rob ert S. Brandon et al., executors of Wm. Bran-don. The argument of this cause was commenced by Mr. Reverdy Johnson, jr., for the

Adjourned till to-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

BED. The epaulets worn by Prince Albert when in full costume, are worth the triffing sum of \$2,500—a small farm on each shoulder.

The common council in Philadelphia

are about to erect a new market-house in that city. The ground on which it is to be built, The Niagara river is frozen at Tonawanda to Grand island shore—a circumstance

which has not previously occurred for thirty

Congressional

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS FIRST SESSION.

Thursday, February 16, 18 The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from Messrs. Tucker and Overton, proprietors of the "Sentinel," offering to take the contract for publishing the Senate debates and proceedings which had been surrendered by the proprietors of which had been surrendered by the proprietors of the "Union." The letter was read and referred

INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. Mr. HAMLIN presented a copy of a report made by Alexander Vattemare upon the subject of an international standard of weights and mea-sures. Referred to the Committee on the Library.

MISSOURI COMPROMISE.

Mr. CHASE presented four petitions from Ohio against the repeal of the Missouri compromise.

Mr. SUMNER presented petitions of a like character for Massachusetts and Illinois.

BILLS PASSED. The following named bills were considered an

Bill to lay off the town of Council Bluffs, Iowa entry.
Bill for the relief of George P. Welsh and Clark

Bill to relinquish the reversionary interest of the United States to a certain reservation in Alabama, and to confirm the title of Charles G. Gun

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the bill to provide for the execution by the courts of the United States, of commissions to ake testimony issuing from the courts of justice of friendly powers; and the same was supported by Mr. Bayard, and opposed by Messrs. STUART and BENJAMIN.

NEBRASKA-SLAVERY. On motion of Mr. DOUGLAS, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to establish a territorial government for Nebraska.

The last clause in the 14th section now is in

these words:

"That the Constitution and all laws of the United States, which are not locally inapplicable, shall have the same force and effect within the said Territory of Nebraska as elsewhere within the United States, except the 8th section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, approved March 6, 1820, which being inconsistent with the principle of non-intervection by Congress with slavery in the States and Territories, as recognised by the legislation of 1850, commonly called the 'compromise measures,' is hereby declared hoperative and void; it being the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States."

The question pending was on the motion of Mr.

The question pending was on the motion of Mr Chase to amend the same by adding thereto the

"Under which the people of the Territories, their appropriate representatives, may, if they see fluibit slavery therein." Mr. BADGER said that, like the senator from

Massachusetts, he entertained strong and insu perable objections to that part of the substitute offered by the senator from Illinois which related to the Indians. He was opposed to it because he thought it did not effectually provide for the preservation of plighted faith with those Indians who had consented to be removed to that country un-der the guaranty that they should be allowed to retain an undisturbed possession of their homes. Had the bill been allowed to remain in that shape, no earthly power would have induced him to vote for it. But the amendments of the Committee on Indian affairs had changed this feature of the bill, and its provisions now secured to the Indians free-dom of choice either to retain or abandon their resent homes.

The objection as to the small number of inhabit-

ants in these Territories had also occurred to him but he agreed with the senator from Massachuetts that that was a question of time only It had been said that the repeal of the Misson

compromise was a violation of a solemn compact He thought he could show that the language which He thought he could show that the language which had already been voted into the bill respecting that matter was true and proper, and that the Missouri act being inconsistent with the pr neiples of the legislation of 1850 was properly declared to be void and inoperative. The senator from Connecticut had argued this question on the ground that the prohibition of the Missouri act applied to the country north of 36° 30′ as long as it was a territorial organization, and ceased to operate when that territory came under a State government. He did not think it was so intended by its authors. It prohibited slavery north of the line, and impliedly not think it was so intended by its authors. It prohibited slavery north of the line, and impliedly permitted it south of the line. It was adopted as a permanent prohibition to follow the territory forer whether under territorial or State organiz ever, whether under territorial or State organiza-tion, and was intended to apply to all the territo-ries of the United States then and forever. That this was so was manifest from the Texan resolu-tions. When Texas was admitted, the Missouri ine was taken up as a matter of course, and ap plied to her territory in the name of the Missouri compromise line of 36° 30′. All now admitted that any act of Congress to exclude or admit slavery in a State would be an idle. vain, and inoperative measure; but the men of 1820 thought otherwise. By the adoption of the principle of non-intervention by Congress with slavery in the Territories Congress laid down a new rule. The principle on which the legislation of 1850 was predicated was abandoned and repudiated by the legislation was abandoned and repudiated by the legislation of 1850. During the agitation of 1850, the south had asked and sought for nothing but the recognition of the Missouri line, and it was refused. It was absurd therefore to call upon the south now to stand by the compromise which was utterly repudiated in 1850. He referred to the fact that, upon the presentation of the Misssouri con-stitution in 1821, framed under the Missouri comstitution in 1821, framed under the Missouri compromise act, the House of Representatives rejected a bill providing for her admission, thus disregarding the compromise itself in one year after
its adoption. Under this compact and bargain,
Missouri should have been admitted at once upon
her application, but the north then rejected her.
During the debate on the Oregon bill in 1848, the
south unanimously voted for the Missouri line, but
it was rejected in the House. During the debate
on the measures of 1850, the Missouri line was
offered in a variety of shapes, and at various offered in a variety of shapes, and at various times by the south, but it was uniformly voted down. It was a little remarkable that the senator from Ohio, who now was so anxious to preserve the Missouri act, voted against it every time it was proposed during the action of the Senate on the legislation of 1850.

legislation of 1850.

He suggested to gentlemen that there was but little use in their troubling themselves about the condition of the slaves of the south. Slaves they were, and slaves they would continue to be. He could see no harm in allowing the presen number of slaves to be dispersed over a large extent of territory. Slavery would never go anywhere but where the soil and the climate was adapted to the growth of cotton, sugar, tobac-co, and rice for exportation. White men would never cultivate these. There could be no conflict, between white and slave labor. To com press slavery in their narrow limits was to do in-jury to the master, and render the condition of the slaves infinitely worse than if allowed room and comfort. He had no idea that slavery would would ever go to Kansas. Some few souther families would go there, and carry a nurse or onor two servants raised with the family. And why should they not carry them with them? Why should they be compelled, when about to move for the better welfare of master and slave, to put

up at the public slave mart their few long-tries and attached servants? It would be cruel to re quire it of them.

The efforts of abolitionists had never benefited The efforts of aboutionists nad never beneficial the slaves. To compel them to be kept within certain limits was to give them over to hardships and severities. All the south asked was to be let alone. God in his providence would provide for the return of the African race to their native land, where they would carry christianity, civili-zation, and freedom. The most degraded slavery in the world was that which existed among the

native Africans.

Mr. SEWARD obtained the floor, and the sub-After an executive session, The Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Mr. HILLYER said that the business of the Committee on Private Land Claims was so great and accumulating, that it was impossible for the committee to investigate the matters before them with that degree of care and attention for proper thad the committee to investigate with logislative duties. adjudication consistent with legislative duties. The committee, therefore, had instructed him to ask for the employment of a clerk, with a compensation of four dellars a day while actually employed. He asked leave to introduce a resolution for this purpose; but objection was made. RELIEF OF PENSIONERS.

Mr. HENDRICKS moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the bill for the relief of pensioners under the act of February 3.1853, was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the

state of the Union.

Mr. MILLSON addressed the House against

Messrs. EDMONDS, COBB, and HENDRICKS severally replied; the last-named gentleman say-ing that, by the passage of the bill, the widows of revolutionary soldiers married after 1800 would be placed in the same position as those married

Mr. MILLSON moved that the motion to re onsider be laid upon the table; and the question aying been taken, it was decided in the affirmative—yeas 68, nays 65.

SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS.

Mr. WALSH rose to a privileged question. He said it was well known that there was a bill pending before one branch of Congress, and which will shortly come before the House, which has created a great deal of sensation in the public mind. Without expressing any opinion on one side of Without expressing any opinion on one side or the other, he should like to know, while an immense amount of influence is brought to bear, whether it is proper for distinguished gentlemen, members of the House, to be seeking information by communication with the other world. [Laughter:] He understood that a rule had been adopted by the House precluding the introduction of spirituous liquors; therefore he should like to know whether, in the face of this rule, it is proper to introduce spirits down stairs to question them on the Nebraska question. [Renewed laughter.]

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES. A large number of reports were made from th veral standing committees; among them one by Mr. CHANDLER, from the Library Committee, being the joint resolution of the Senate for suppling new members of Congress, of both house with such books of a public character as hateretofore been supplied.

A motion was made that the resolution be latered to the table, but it did not prevail.

The resolution was then passed

The resolution was then passed. THE SAN FRANCISCO RESCUERS.

Mr. CHANDLER, from the joint select co mittee on the subject, made a report upon the sub-ject, c-nacluding with a resolution. (heretofore pub-lished.) making an appropriation to enable the Pre-sident of the United States to procure three gold medals, with suitable devices to be presented, re-spectively, to the commanders of the Three Bells, Kilby, and Antaretic, for their gallant conduct in rescuing upwards of five hundred Americans from the steamship San Francisco at the time of the re-cent disaster; and appropriating one hundred cent disaster; and appropriating one hundred thousand dollars, to be distributed among the offi-cers and seamen of those vessels, and such other persons as distinguished themselves on that occa-sion, according to the importance of the service rendered, as far as the same can be ascertained by the President.

he President.

The SPEAKER said that, as the resolution contains an appropriation, it must be referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the

CHANDLER remarked that, since this natter had been with the committee, a great many events had happened. He desired that the resoution should now be passed, or that Wednesday next be set apart for its consideration.

Mr. McMULLEN moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, with a view to consideration

Mr. HUNT was aware of the rule which urires all bills proposing appropriations to go to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union; but he asked the gentleman from Virginia withdraw his objection, the only one.
Mr. McMULLEN said that he was not the only

member who objected.

Mr. BOCOCK remarked that he, too, objected. oill made a special order.

Mr. CUTTING inquired of the chairman of the

Committee on Military Affairs whether a report had not been prepared by that committee on the same subject.

Mr. BISSELL replied that the com order to avoid conflicting action with the specia

ommittee, had not presented a report on the Mr. CHANDLER observed that, if the resolu tion should be referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, there would be divers shipwrecks before it shall be reached.

The resolution was referred to that committee.

CUSTOM-HOUSES AND HOSPITALS. Mr. BRECKINRIDGE, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill providing for the completion of certain custom-houses and marine hospitals therein mentioned; which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the

THE WAREHOUSING SYSTEM. Mr. FULLER, from the Committee on Com merce, reported back, with amendments, the Sen-ate bill extending the warehousing system by es-tablishing private bonded warehouses. Referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the

NEW ORLEANS. Mr. DUNBAR, from the same committee, re orted back the Senate bill extending the limits of he port of New Orleans, and it was passed.

HOMESTEAD BILL-THE TARIFF. The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Olds in

he chair, the subject before the body being the Mr. BOYCE, after referring to the twenty-eight millions of dollars surplus, mentioned in the finan-cial report of the Secretary of the Treasury, said cial report of the Secretary of the Treasury, said that very properly measures might now be introduced to modify the tariff system. The Secretary recommends a duty of one hundred per cent. on luxuries and cordials, a greater extension of the free list, and a uniform duty of twenty-five per cent. on all remaining importations. He had very cent. on all remaining importations. He had very high respect for the Secretary of the Treasury, but differed from him on this subject. As to the proposition of one hundred per cent. duties, it was utterly indefensible. It was five times higher than the standard; and would have an injurious flect in our relations with France. He could ser no possible reasons for such exorbitant duties, unless it be a desire to legislate indirectly on a great social question with which Congress has nothing to do. The object, he thought, was to afford the ntmost practical protection to domestic manu

factures. The recommendation of the Secretary, if carried out, would result in monopoly and protection in the worst form. He then entered into a general the worst form. He then entered into a general consideration of the subject of the tariff, saying, in the course of his remarks, that the government should take from the people as little as possible; that there should be as much equality as possible to all classes and sections; that there should be as little interference as possible with the labor of the country; and that taxation should be in accordance with the Constitution of the United States. The policy which he recommended was to graduate the tariff to the lowest point to afford sufficient revenue only for the expenses of the government. evenue only for the expenses of the government He would tax luxuries higher than other articles To prevent a surplus, he would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury, six months after a surplus retary of the Treasury, six months after a surplus, to reduce the duties to a regular uniform percentage, until the revenue shall be justly responsive to the wants of the government. He did not think the people were in danger of being seriously injured by a reduction of the receipts into the trea-

Mr. SAPP delivered a speech in favor of the assage of the homestead The committee rose, And the House adjourned.

AWFUL DEATH .- A most tragical tale is told of the sufferings of three soldiers of a detach-ment of the 69th regiment, now stationed at foronto, and a black man, who got into a boat, he soldiers with the intention of deserting, and getting over to Crab Island, and from thence, as opportunity offered, to America. After a while, the wind arising, they were driven out of their course, and so remained in the open boat for several days without food or water. At ength one of the soldiers proposed to draw ots that one should be killed to furnish food for the others. They did so, and the lot fell upon Thomas Buckley, one of the soldiers, who forthwith bound up his arm, and opened a vein journey.—New Quarterly Review for January. to bleed himself to death; one of the others and the black man, sucked his blood, and afterwards went raving mad, and jumped into the sea. Buckley also died; and there remained only one soldier out of the party in the boat, Wm. Lennon, who threw the dead body into the sea, lashed the helm, and left himself to his fate. He had not tasted any of Buckley's blood, because, according to his own statement. he had felt a scruple in doing so as he had been his comrade. After 11 days drifting, the boat was driven on the coast of St. Domingo, and the coast guard found the survivor, and after giving him some refreshments, carried him to Jacmel to the British Consul, before whom he made relation of the facts as above, and he was sent back to Tortola in the steamer. [Barbadoes paper.

The Typographical Association of New Orleans has raised the printers' rates to fifty cents

The Emperor Nicholas as a Warrior.

People will remember that Nicholas, when at Varna, prudently kept his steamer out of the reach of the Turkish guns. Marshal Die-hitch medesteel bitch undertook the command, on condition that neither the czar nor his brother should remain in Turkey. Since then Nicholas has yielded to the conviction that he is not able to conduct a war, and so he has contented himself with commanding at reviews, and this he does with delight and fanaticism. He identifies himself with such manceuvres so well, that he takes them for actual engagements. He takes off his helmet once, and cries out: "Boys, God for us; into the fire!" Another time he gives his aids-de-camp an order to carry, and, forgetting that there was no danger, he says: "Fight your way through. Care not for your family; I will provide for them." Obliged to surrender St. Petersburg, he puts this clause in the capitulation, that "the winter palace and the imperial family shall be preserved; if not, he will fight to the last drop of his blood He is never victorious, but always beaten. Last year he was surrounded by General

Rudiger, and a division marched to cut off from him the last hamlet for his retreat. An aid-de-camp, and afterwards the minister of war himself, came to the commander of this war himself, came to the commander of this division, to persuade him not to perform this manœuvre; but he says, in reply, that he must obey his immediate chief. Then they address the same prayer to General Rudiger. "I should like to save his majesty," answered the old warrior; "but how is it to be managed? Now, my weakest point is here; let the emperor attack it; let him kill my artillerymen, and break through, I will do nothing to prevent it." It happened as he advised, and the czar, full of joy, said: "Are not my rifemen a splendid It happened as he advised, and the czar, full of joy, said: "Are not my riflemen a splendid idea?" In every company, namely, eleven, carbineers have been appointed, whose rifles reach to the distance of 1,000 paces, in imitation of the Austrian infantry.

At night he gives orders that the alarm shall

not be sounded before 8 o'clock in the morning, yet to send him reports every hour. He wraps himself up in his cloak and slumbers. The general who has to send the report has them all in readiness and goes to bed, ordering a pa-per to be taken every hour from his table and

carried to the emperor. Once the czar killed a great many horses in searching for the enemy, whom he could not meet with. He calls the commander of the de-tachment, and says to him: "Why did I not see you? Were you afraid?" "I have neither cavdry nor artilery. I must keep in the forest,' nswered the general. The czar arrested him; and the general who succeeded him, in order to avoid the same fate, drove the division before he eyes of the czar, suffered himself to be beaten, but escaped the anger of his majesty. And such an emperor is to conquer the world One evening, in the empress's drawing-room, Nicholas opened her album, and stood looking at a drawing, lost in thought. His wife ven tured to inquire the subject of his thoughts. The subject of the drawing was "Godefroy de Bouillon at Jerusalem." "I like such an enterprise," said the czar; "I understand the nature of so great a design. Yes, to go to war for the sake of an idea, to fire the nations of the world with enthusiastic ardor for it; that would please me." Everybody understood that the idea of the czar was absolutism; but we hope that Europe will not become Cossack

### American Travel.

on .- An Eye-witness.

The late celebrated Mr. Clay was a man of great resolution and considerable daring. He once told the following anecdote to a friend of

Travelling, in early manhood, in a conveyance in a southeastern State he found himself in the company of three other persons, consisting of a young lady and gentleman, her husband, and of an individual muffled up in a cloak, whose countenance was concealed, and who appeared to be indulging in a tete a tete with Morpheus.

Suddenly a big, brawny Kentuckian got into the coach, smoking a cigar, and frowned fiercely around, as much as to say: "I'm half horse half aligator; the yallow flower of the forest all brim-stone but the head and ears, and that's aquafortis." In fact, he looked as savage as a meat-axe, and puffed forth huge volumes of smoke, without reference to the company with in, especially of the lady, who manifested cer-tain timid symptoms of annoyance. Presently, after some whispering, the gentleman with her, in the politest accents, requested the stranger not to smoke, as it annoyed his companion. The fellow answered: "I reckon I've paid my place. I'll smoke as much I darn please; and all hell shan't stop me no how." With that he looked dangerous, and rolled his eyes round as fiercely as a rattle-snake. It was evident he had no objection to a quarrel, and that, if it occurred, it was likely to lead to a deadly struggle. The young man who had spoken to him shrunk

back and was silent.

Clay felt his gallantry aroused. He consid ered for a moment whether he should interfere, but experienced a natural reluctance to draw upon himself the brutal violence of his gigantic adversary. In that lawless country he knew his life might be sacrificed unaveraged. He knew himself physically unequal to the contest, and he thought, after all, it was not his business quixotically to take up another man's quarrel. Feeling pity for the insulted and disgust toward the insulter, he determined to take no notice; when, very quietly indeed, the cloaked figure in the corner assumed an upright position, and the mantle was suffered to fall from it without effort or excitement. The small but sinewy form of a man, plainly dressed in a tightly-buttoned frock-coat, with nothing remarkable about his appearance, was seen, and a pair of bright gray eyes sought the fierce and a pair of bright gray eyes sought the fierce optics of the ferocious Kentuckian. Without a word this "lay figure" passed his hand beneath his collar at the back of his neck, and slowly and deliberately pulled forth a long, extremely long and glittering knife from its sheath in that singular place. "Stranger," he said, "my name is Colonel James Bowie, well known in Arkansas and Louisiana; and if you don't put that cigar out of the window in a quarter of a minute, I'll put this knife through your bowels sure as death."

Clay said he never forgot in after life the expression of the colonel's eye at that mo-ment. The predominant impression made up-on him was the certainty of the threat being fulfilled; and apparently the same conviction impressed itself ere long upon the offender du ring the two or three seconds his eyes met that of Bowie. He was the weaker, and he quailed With a curse he tore the cigar from between his teeth, and flung it, scowling but downcast,

out of the coach window.
Upon this Colonel James Bowie as delibe rately replaced his long knife in its eccentric hiding-place, and, without saying a word to any one, or even vonchsafing a glance at any one, refolded his cloak around him, and did

WAYS OF STEERING BALLOONS,-We never watch a rocket flying without wishing to see its principle extended to the balloon, so as to furnish a means of guiding it. Let a balloon, elevated by hydrogen or coalgas, be also furnished with the means of discharging a vapor, such as steam, carbonic acid, the products of ordi-nary combustion, or the like, and let this vapor be allowed to rush out against the air, as the gases produced by the combustion of the powder in a rocket do. If the gas were thus discharged from a tube pointing downwards, the balloon would ascend; if the tube were be allowed to rush out against the air, as placed horizontally, the machine would be im-pelled horizontally in the opposite direction. By the combination of two tubes, each movable on a universal joint, the balloon might be driven in any direction. The principle we are sure is a just one; we may yet see it applied in practice.—British Quarterly.